



# Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy

OCTOBER 2008  
E-NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

## U.S. Embassy Lisbon

Av. das Forças Armadas,  
Sete-Rios  
1600-081 Lisbon  
Tel: 21-727-3300

American Citizen Services  
Appts: Monday to Friday  
8—10 30 a.m.  
Mondays and Wednesdays,  
1:30—3:30 p.m.  
Tel: 21-727-2122  
E-mail: ConsLisbon@state.gov

For emergencies concerning an  
American citizen afterhours, please  
call 21-727-3300.

## U.S. Consulate Ponta Delgada

Av. Principe do Monaco  
No. 6-2 F  
9500-237 Ponta Delgada  
Azores  
Tel: 296-282-216

American Citizen Services  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
9 am—12:30 pm, 1:30—5 pm  
E-mail:

## U.S. Consular Agency Funchal

Rua da Alfandega, No. 10  
2nd Floor, Rooms A & B  
9000-059 Funchal  
Tel: 291-235-636

American Citizen Services  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
9 am—1 pm



## Closure of the Consular Section for October/November

The Consular Section will be closed for the following holidays:

October 13 — Columbus Day  
November 11—Veteran's Day  
November 27—Thanksgiving



Most states begin mailing ballots 30-45 days before the election. If you have not received your ballot two weeks before the election, contact your local election official. Their contact information is available on most [state election sites](#). If you have requested a ballot but still have not received one close to election day, you may use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) which is available [on-line](#).

Please be aware of your state's requirements. Very few states require notarization, but many states have witness requirements. State requirements can be very particular. For instance, Virginia requires a witness for the FWAB, and that they include their signature AND address on the signature line in order for the ballot to be counted.

## Consular Visit to Porto

On October 6, consular staff from the U.S. Embassy will visit Porto to provide consular services such as: renewing passports; registering births of U.S. citizens; notarizing documents for use in the U.S.; and assisting citizens with casting their vote in the U.S. Elections.



The staff will be available on Princesa do Douro, a Douro Azul boat docked at Cais de Gaia from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday. Parking is available. We recommend that you make an appointment beforehand by calling the Consular Section at 21-770-2122 during our public phone hours: 2 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will be able to better assist you with the documents and fees needed. The consular staff will not be able to accept credit cards or provide change so please bring exact change, either in dollars or euros. We look forward to serving you!

CONSULAR SECTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY

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## How Exactly Does the Electoral College Work?

More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This "indirect" election system, called the Electoral College, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. Devised by the framers of our Constitution, the system allocates powers not only to a national government and its people, but also to the states. To learn more, please visit America.gov's special issue on [The Electoral College](#).

## What is ESTA?



The Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is a program administered by the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen and preserve the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

The ESTA program does not apply to American citizens: It applies to nationals from countries with a visa-waiver program, such as Portugal, who are planning short trips to the U.S. These individual must receive an electronic travel authorization before commencing travel if they do not have a valid U.S. visa in their passport.

The traveler or a representative can submit an application by Internet. It must be made at least 72 hours in advance of the trip. There is no fee. Once the authorization is received, it is valid for two years or until the passport expires.

**ESTA becomes mandatory on January 12, 2009.** Note: Travelers with a valid U.S. visa DO NOT need to request ESTA.

For more information about the program, [Click Here!](#)

## Internet Pal in Trouble?

Unfortunately, Internet-based financial scams have become more and more prevalent in recent years. Individual Americans have lost considerable money on financial scams that originate overseas, ranging from a few hundred dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The State Department gets daily inquiries from victims of these scams.

Protect yourself by learning about the indicators of some common scams and actions you should take. For more information, visit the State Department's link on [Financial Scams](#).



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## Ask the Consul General!

If you have a question for the Consul General and you'd like other Americans to benefit from the answer, please send it to: [Conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:Conslisbon@state.gov) (ATTN: Ask the Consul General). We'll print your question and our response in the next newsletter. Of course, your personal information such as name, address, etc., will be protected.

## Consular Fees

<b>Passport</b>	Adult Renewal	51.00 €	\$75.00
	Minor Renewal	58.00 €	\$85.00
	1st time Applicant	68.00 €	\$100.00
	Lost/Stolen	68.00 €	\$100.00
<b>Report of Birth Package</b>		102.00 €	\$150.00
<b>Consular Certificate</b>		20.00 €	\$30.00
<b>Notaries</b>	1st document	20.00 €	\$30.00
	2nd Document	14.00 €	\$20.00